

BRITAIN UPHOLDS SEIZURES ON CHINA

Tells U. S. Teutons Taken From American Ship Were Plotters.

SHANGHAI SPY CENTRE

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The text of Great Britain's note replying to the American protest against the seizure of thirty-eight Germans, Austrians and Turks on the American steamer China near Shanghai was today made public by the State Department. As previously stated, it contends that the seizure was justified on the ground that the prisoners were engaged in plots against Great Britain in the Far East and were not entitled to the protection of a neutral flag on the high seas. The note, signed by Sir Edward Grey, is in part as follows:

"His Majesty's Government have given the most careful consideration to the memorandum which your Excellency was good enough to communicate to me on the 24th ultimo, conveying a protest from the United States Government against the removal of thirty-eight enemy subjects by His Majesty's ship Laureate from the steamer China in the high seas off the entrance to the Yangtze River, and I now have the honor to offer the following observations as an expression of the views of His Majesty's Government in regard to the matter.

The present war has shown that the belligerent activity of the enemies of this country is by no means confined to the actual theatres of military and naval operations and that there is no limit to the methods by which Germany in particular seeks to secure a victory for her arms. The hostile efforts of the enemy have shown and continue to show themselves in the most varied and in many parts of the world in political intrigues, revolutionary plots, schemes for attacking the sea-borne trade of this country and her allies, endeavors to facilitate the operations of the enemy in the East and in criminal enterprises of different kinds directed against the property of neutrals and belligerents alike.

Pay Case Referred To.

"War has in effect been extended far beyond the bounds of the area in which opposing armies manoeuvre and an unscrupulous belligerent may inflict the deadliest blows on his enemy in regions remote from actual fighting.

"It may be recalled that a certain Lieutenant Robert Fay of the German army was reported in the press last autumn to have been detected in the act of passing bombs designed to destroy merchant ships leaving America and operating in the interests of the enemies of Germany. He was said to have admitted that he was acting by the German authorities, and the United States Government are not aware of any degree of truth there may be in the story, but it is clear that the American and elsewhere have shown that the facts may be as stated and may be typical.

It is then evidently of the greatest importance for a belligerent Power to intercept on the high seas not only modified members of the opposing army who may be detected travelling on neutral ships, but also those agents who the enemy sends to injure his opponent abroad, or whose services he avails himself of without having himself committed any act of aggression. The point of view from the belligerent's point of view has changed and the change necessarily involves a modification in the precise description of the acts which are to be treated as in the nature of espionage. It is clear that the description can be said to have existed in any binding form.

Right of Removal.

"It may add that the action of the United States Government in forwarding requests for safe conducts for agents of States at war with this country whose action had been such that their continued presence in the United States could no longer be tolerated affords a strong indication that the right to remove certain classes of persons from neutral ships can be exercised by a belligerent Power. It is not confined to persons embodied in the armed forces of a belligerent.

"It may add for the confidential information of the Government of the United States that the British Government has been definitely established that the Germans resident in Shanghai have been engaged in some time in the collection of arms and ammunition, both for clandestine transmission to India and if possible for the arming of a ship to play the part of a Far Eastern blow.

"His Majesty's Government were able to come with this activity to a considerable extent and obtained the arrest of various German agents caught in the act of attempting to smuggle arms out of Shanghai, further, the Germans became aware that His Majesty's Government knew of their plots. The commander in chief, China station, received information that owing to this fact the Germans were planning to shift the centre of their activity from Shanghai to Manila. His Majesty's ships were sent to guard off the mouth of the Yangtze with a view of intercepting this party. The date of the Chinese departure was more than once postponed, but she eventually sailed in the month of March. His Majesty's ship Laureate found to have on board Germans and Austrians corresponding to those concerning whom information as mentioned above had been received. The Laureate therefore had no hesitation in removing them. The next available port of call of the China was Nagasaki, a convenient place at which to transfer them to a vessel proceeding to Manila.

"It may be added that subsequent information fully confirms the movement of the body of Germans in question was an integral part of the plot referred to above."

ITALIANS TAKE TRENCHES.

Gain Positions on Mount Pari Cimadoro and Monte Spermone.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

Rome, April 12.—The Italian War Office today issued the following statement:

"In the Ledro Valley by systematic offensive actions we pushed our occupation of the heights north of Riva Ponale, between Concel Valley and Lake Garda.

"Officially supported by our artillery, the infantry carried with the bayonet a strong line of intrenchments and redoubts along the southern slopes of Mount Pari Cimadoro and the crags of Monte Spermone. The enemy, after suffering heavy losses, succeeded in escaping, being favored by the ground. Nevertheless we took twenty prisoners.

"Yesterday there were intense artillery actions in the zone between the Adige and Brenta rivers, but on the 10th the fire of our batteries prevented the enemy from repairing Fort Lamma.

"Upper Adige we destroyed reinforcement depots at Santa Caterina and Ugovizza."

GEN. GUTIERREZ, A VILLA LEADER, U. S. PRISONER

Continued from First Page.

came in Mexico completely cut off from the border, as the Constitutionalists have declined to permit the use of Mexican telegraph lines, and it would be dangerous to operate an aeroplane service to the border through a region not controlled by the American forces, it is pointed out.

Army officials point out that if the Carranza Government had been able to establish a supply base in any Mexican town a temporary siding could be built at some convenient point south of Chihuahua city and the supply base established there. All shipments from the American army could be made to that point and distributed from there by motor truck and pack train.

Two points have been mentioned as possibilities for shipment of supplies. One of these is a trail from Ojinaga to Chihuahua city and the other is from Guadalupe to the same city. Guadalupe is thirty-two miles east of El Paso, and the trail from Ojinaga to Chihuahua city extends south from there to Chihuahua city. This is the shortest of all routes to the present Carranza base of operations and has been discussed and considered by the army officials. Almost a month ago Gen. Bell, Jr., secured all the necessary details regarding this road.

The present increase in the army is

CARRANZA SILENT ON THE VILLA HUNT

Secretary Lansing Denies First Chief Said He Would Not Interfere.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Secretary Lansing denied to-night a report printed this morning to the effect that the United States has assurances from Carranza that he will not interfere in any way with the operations of the American expedition that is hunting Villa.

Although the negotiations for the proposed protocol between the two Governments are still under consideration the Secretary said that no assurances of non-interference by Carranza or any protests against operations of the expedition had been received by the United States.

In an effort to obtain a more direct route for the shipment of supplies to the American expedition in Mexico, Gen. Funston, according to reports, has made to the War Department today, has begun sending shipments to Chihuahua by way of the Mexican Central railroad instead of the Mexican Northern. Despite the fact that the Carranza Government never has given formal consent for the use of the railroads, the fact that no obstacles are being interposed is regarded as an encouraging sign.

"If this shipment is successful," Gen. Funston reported, "other large ones will follow. It is hoped the shipment will reach Gen. Pershing's headquarters at Chihuahua. Commenting on the new plan, Major Gen. Scott, Chief of Staff, said that direct use of the Mexican Central would be a great advantage to the American expedition. It would enable the army to avoid the more complex system of shipping through mining companies or breakers.

Despite the report against the Carranza authorities on the west coast of Mexico near Mazatlan is causing concern here. The United States supply ship Glacier has reported to the Navy Department that trouble is anticipated and for that reason the American Consul is advising Americans in the vicinity to return to the United States. The statement of the Navy Department this afternoon that the navy transport Hancock, ordered to Mexican waters from New Orleans, is required to take American refugees from Tampico and other unsettled coast ports. He explained that the Hancock, with more than twenty marines, her usual complement, is merely going to the American battleship Kentucky is at the former port and the gunboats Machias and Marietta are at Tampico.

COLUMBUS TRAITOR HELD.

Villa Man, a Prisoner, Identified as Sanchez There.

COLUMBUS, N. M., April 12.—Jose Martinez, one of the wounded bandits brought here from El Valle, where the United States troops made prisoners of a number of Pancho Villa's men abandoned there in his flight south, has been identified as a man formerly a resident of Columbus. The man was employed in the town and on nearby ranches prior to the Villa raid and the officers believe that he kept Villa posted on the condition of the American border patrol and gave pointers on how best to attack and loot the town of Columbus.

Dr. W. T. Brown of El Paso, called to Casas Grandes to attend Lieut. Col. Tyres Rivers, a Cavalry officer, who is suffering with pneumonia, returned to and said the Colonel had passed the crisis and had a fighting chance to recover.

"I cannot pay too high a compliment to the army surgeons for their splendid equipment at Casas Grandes," said Dr. Brown. "Everything that could be done for Lieut. Col. Rivers was being done, and he could not have had better attention in any modern hospital. It is a good thing that he was not sent upon the train, for such a trip would certainly have cost him his life."

BRITAIN EXTENDS CONTRABAND

Government Prepares New List—Coal Output Declines.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, April 12.—The Official Gazette issued this afternoon an extended list of contraband. The new list comprises all money, negotiable instruments, realisable securities, metallic chlorides, except chloride of sodium, metallic compounds of carbon, stannic, borax, boracic acid and other boron compounds, sabbatia seeds as well as preparations therefrom, and white paper.

The year's output of coal in Great Britain was 255,188,000 tons. This represents a decrease of nearly 12,500,000 tons, as compared with the previous year.

If you want to catch it send her a photograph by

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALBERT M. DODD

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INQUIRY BEGUN INTO STOKES-DIAZ PLOT

Department of Justice to See if Wealthy New Yorker Can Be Prosecuted.

DIAZ IS NOW IN MEXICO

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Investigation is under way by agents of the Department of Justice into statements reported to have been made at Lexington, Ky., yesterday by W. E. D. Stokes of New York to the effect that he was the American representative of Felix Diaz, nephew of the late Gen. Porfirio Diaz, has launched a revolution in southern Mexico against the Carranza Government.

Diaz, who agents of the Department have been watching for some time, is reported to have slipped through their fingers, and embarking from New Orleans, is said to have appeared at Tapachula, in the State of Chiapas, at the head of a force of approximately 23,000 men. Tapachula is across the frontier from Guatemala, the Government of which has been frequently accused of fostering revolution against Carranza.

While officials of the Department of Justice admit there may be some distinction between the act of supplying money to a man about to start a revolution and supplying funds to a man engaged in a revolution against a friendly Government, the statements of Mr. Stokes, if the latter was correctly quoted, are of sufficient importance to bear investigation. If it is shown that the New York man was engaged in any infraction of the neutrality laws of the United States he will be prosecuted.

That Stokes has been friendly with Diaz, it was stated, has been known to agents of the Department who have been watching the movements of Diaz in this country, and his connections with Diaz have been carefully checked up.

Stokes was quoted in the interview with saying that Diaz refused an offer from a European Power to start a revolution in Mexico because he believed that Power was hostile to the United States and had also rejected an offer of \$2,000,000 to pool his interests with those of the late Gen. Huerta, the deposed dictator of Mexico, who was trying to start a revolt against Carranza.

Reports from Mexican quarters in San Antonio state that Diaz plans to march on Mexico city, 350 miles from Tapachula and that he is to be joined in the undertaking by Zapata.

The inquiry of the Department of Justice into the utterances of Mr. Stokes was started without suggestion from the State Department, Secretary Lansing saying this afternoon that the statements of the New York man had not been brought officially to his attention.

PEERS' TITLES IN DANGER.

Commons Urged to Act Against King George's German Cousins.

LONDON, April 12.—Swift MacDonnell, Member of Parliament for South Down, urged in the House of Commons today that an act be passed depriving the Dukes of Cumberland and Albany of their British peerages. They are cousins of King George and are German subjects.

Premier Asquith said that he did not believe that the House of Commons could profitably employ its time in considering such legislation, since the peerages of the Dukes of Cumberland and Albany had already been expelled from the Order of the Garter. Sir Arthur Markham interposed, saying that the House would pass such a Bill in three minutes.

MAY EXTEND MILITARY ACT.

Britain Considering Step—Carson for General Compulsion.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, April 12.—Sir Edward Carson has given notice that he will introduce a motion in the House of Commons to extend the Military Act so as to require all men of military age by making all liable to service.

The House of Commons says the question of general compulsion will be brought to a head by the motion, which will be debated on April 19, and adds that the Government supporters limit there is a probability that the Government will announce an extension of the age limit to 45, compulsion to be applied to all single men.

Special Aid for Married Recruits.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, April 12.—Premier Asquith promised a deputation of married recruits to-day that financial compensation would be made where there were exceptional cases. The Premier will speak on the subject of recruiting next Tuesday. Sir Edward Carson's opposition motion is to be debated soon.

FRANCE TO LIMIT FOOD COST.

Senate Adopts Plan to Fix Maximum Prices by Decrees.

PARIS, April 12.—The French Senate adopted to-day in principle the Government's proposal to fix by decrees maximum prices for necessities. The articles upon which it is proposed to fix maximum prices are bread, cereals, milk, butter, imitation butter, eggs, lard, potatoes, sugar, cheese, green vegetables, wine, cider, table beer, fertilizers, petroleum and fuel oil.

The measure is to remain in effect for the duration of the war and three months after the cessation of hostilities.

ASHURST CHARGES BAKER BREAKS LAW

Arizona Senator Says Secretary Refuses Equipment to Rifle Club.

COMPLAINS TO SENATE

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Senator Ashurst of Arizona, a Democrat, made a vigorous attack on Secretary of War Baker in a speech to-day in the Senate. He charged that the Secretary had set himself above the law, and had done so in a grave injustice to the people of Arizona and probably imperilled their security.

The trouble arose over a refusal by Secretary Baker to make a distribution of rifles to a voluntary military organization at Bisbee, Ariz. This organization was formed under the law for the encouragement of rifle practice, but Secretary Baker expressed the opinion that, if the members received guns they might invade Mexico, or bring about other international complications.

Sensor Ashurst received telegraphic protests from the military organization and citizens of Arizona, declaring they desired the rifles solely for the purpose of better protecting themselves from a possible Mexican invasion.

"Congress," said Senator Ashurst, "has a right to assume that its laws are executed by another branch of the Government. It is my duty, painful it may be, to call attention to one of the laws passed in 1905 and another in 1914, which one of the Departments arbitrarily refused to execute. Although the current generated by a gasoline engine which forms a part of the outfit."

This "teletoken," a wireless machine of German design, operated by an electrical current generated by a gasoline engine which forms a part of the outfit.

The "teletoken," or "wagon set," as the soldiers call it, is distinguished from the smaller wireless device carried on the backs of mules, has a radius of 250 miles under favorable conditions, and enables the commander of the expedition to keep in touch with the border and with the more distant places of the advance guards. By the same means the correspondents are enabled to send flashes of the most important bits of news which come under their ken, if the censor gives them a permit to do so.

Thus far there has been little or no interference with the telephone or telegraph lines, which is taken as an indication that the natives either are friendly or that they are afraid of the action of the present Secretary of War.

The Senator explained the operation of the board of rifle practice under the partnership and asserted that attention to the laws passed to encourage such practice, which provide that, when volunteer organizations are formed in compliance with the law, the Secretary of War shall issue arms and ammunition.

"Various rifle clubs in Arizona have been formed," he continued, "and the members will compare most favorably with the Secretary of War in ability, patriotism and resolution of character. They have complied with the law. I have just telephoned to the War Department and ascertained that fact. But the laws passed to encourage such practice, which provide that, when volunteer organizations are formed in compliance with the law, the Secretary of War shall issue arms and ammunition."

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"I regret the statement. The citizens of my State who organized this club are cool headed men and are not any more likely to do damage to our country, our laws or our institutions than is the Secretary of War, who says he is above the law. The citizens of Arizona will obey the law, which is more than the Secretary of War is doing."

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PERSHING'S SCOUT SYSTEM A WONDER TO MEXICANS

U. S. Commander Gets Information of Enemy Movements by Airships, Wireless and Telegraph—Correspondents Having a Hard Time.

By GEORGE H. CLEMENTS.

Special Correspondent of The Sun.

FIELD HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, NEAR NUEVAS CASAS GRANDES, Mexico, April 3.—Scouts returning from the extreme front have much to say regarding the wonder expressed by friendly natives at the facility with which the American commanders in the field obtain accurate information of the movements not only of Villa's bands but of all natives whether under suspicion of being connected with any of the warring factions in Mexico or not.

Not only is the Aero Corps very much in evidence gathering information, but the Signal Corps has strong field telegraphs and telephones in every direction, enabling the commanders of the half dozen or more of columns advancing wisely over a front of nearly seventy-five miles to keep in constant communication with headquarters or with each other.

In addition are a dozen or more of small wireless outfits, "pack sets," they are called, because carried on pack saddles on the backs of mules. These are set up wherever necessary and when tanned by the facts as to the military action of the present Secretary of War.

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